

LEWIS R. GATES.

APRIL 11, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCUMBER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4756.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4756) granting an increase of pension to Lewis R. Gates, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

This soldier, now 73 years of age, served as a private in Company B, First Dakota Cavalry, from March 31, 1863, to November 15, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He is now pensioned under the general law at \$17 per month on account of varicose veins of both legs and nasal catarrh.

Claims for increase of pension were rejected, the last one on June 10, 1903, upon the ground that the rating of \$17 per month was fully commensurate with the degree of disability arising from the pensioned causes and that the alleged bronchitis and disease of stomach could not be accepted as results of these pensioned causes.

Medical testimony filed in the Pension Bureau in 1902 shows that in 1898 he was furnished with elastic stockings for his legs but without any good results, as the veins of the legs were so tender and sore that he could not wear them but a short time; that he is also a severe sufferer from catarrh, bronchitis, and stomach trouble, wholly unable to perform manual labor, and during a considerable portion of the time has required the attention of a physician.

The board which examined him on May 7, 1902, rated him \$17 for the varicose veins, \$7 for catarrh, and \$12 for loss of the right eye, and that board then stated that he might be fairly rugged for one of his age but for the varicose veins, and that as it was, he was not able to work at all.

When last examined, on January 7, 1903, the board stated that the internal saphenous veins of the right leg were varicosed along the entire course, the veins 1 inch in diameter in places; that there was one tumor on the middle of the right leg, internal, 3 by 2 inches in diameter; that all superficial veins of the left leg were varicosed; that the skin on the right leg was discolored, and that at two points at the middle of the leg the skin was breaking down and would soon ulcerate; that there was total loss of sight of the right eye, with shrinking of the ball, the result of a kick by a horse; that there was atrophic rhinitis of the mucous membrane of both nostrils, with chronic pharyngitis; that the stomach was tender and painful on palpation, and the board then stated that he was not physically able to perform any manual labor.

The board of surgeons have virtually admitted that this soldier is wholly unable to perform any manual labor by reason of the disabilities of accepted service origin.

Aside from these disabilities he is blind in one eye.

In consideration of these facts the relief sought in the bill is eminently just and proper.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

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